

APPLICATION FOR THE INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Please submit your completed application
by email to district.applications@austintexas.gov
by mail or in person to:
Office of the City Auditor
301 W. 2nd Street Suite 2130
Austin, TX 78701

10240

*Application Period:
January 18, 2013
through
February 22, 2013*

**APPLICATION FOR THE
INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

2013

**FOR ASSISTANCE WITH INTERPRETING KEY TERMS, SEE THE GLOSSARY
AT THE END OF THIS APPLICATION**

**MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS CAN BE FOUND IN
THE CITY AUDITOR'S INTERPRETIVE GUIDANCE AND THE CITY CHARTER
AT WWW.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/10-ONE**

You must submit an electronic application to district.applications@austintexas.gov
or provide a signed application to the Office of the City Auditor in person or by mail at:

301 W. 2nd Street, Suite 2130
Austin, TX 78701

Submission Deadline: February 22, 2013

DUTIES AND TERMS OF SERVICE

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission **duties** include:

1. Conduct duties with integrity and fairness.
2. Conduct an open and transparent process to enable full public consideration of and comment on the drawing of district lines to include an open hearing process.
3. Draw district lines in accordance with specific redistricting criteria in the Charter.
4. Adopt a final redistricting plan and certify the plan to the Austin City Council.
5. Issue a report that explains the basis on which the Commission made its decisions.

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Member **terms of service** include:

1. Members of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission) will not be compensated for serving, but are eligible to receive reimbursement of reasonable and necessary expenses related to Commission duties. Guidance on what is considered "reasonable and necessary" will be provided by the appropriate authority at a later date.
2. Serve a term of office that expires when the first member of the succeeding Commission is appointed in the year after the next national census is taken.
3. Members of the Commission will be subject to the following restrictions on their future activities:
 - For a period of **10** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **will not** be eligible to be elected to the Austin City Council.
 - For a period of **three** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **may not** hold appointed office for the City of Austin.
 - For a period of **three** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **may not**:
 - Serve as a City employee or as a paid consultant to the City of Austin.
 - Serve as a paid consultant to a member of the City Council in the council member's private capacity; or
 - Receive a non-competitively bid contract with the City of Austin.

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Please complete this section legibly.

Name of Applicant: Garcia Gavin Lance
(Last) (First) (Middle) (Suffix)

Voter Registration Number (VUID): 1140682004

Residence Address (must be a fixed location in the City of Austin):

1400 Corona Drive Austin TX 78723
(Street Address) (City) (State) (Zip)

Mailing Address (if different from Residence Address)

(Street Address or PO Box) (City) (State) (Zip)

Contact Phone: 512. 538. 4115

Contact Email Address: glanceg@gmail.com

Spouse's Name: Garcia Donya Andrews
(Last) (First) (Middle) (Suffix)

13-02-14A08:30 RCVD

13-02-14A08:30 RC

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Please check YES or NO by each requirement. If you answer YES to question one (1), you may skip questions four (4) and five (5).

1. Are you a student enrolled in a community college or university in the City of Austin? ☐ Yes ☒ No
2. Do you reside in the City of Austin? ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Are you registered to vote in the City of Austin? ☒ Yes ☐ No
4. Have you been continuously registered to vote in the City of Austin for the five years immediately preceding the date on which you submit this application? ☒ Yes ☐ No
5. Please indicate whether you voted in the following City of Austin general elections (or corresponding runoff if applicable):

City of Austin General Elections	Candidate Response
May 12, 2012	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 14, 2011	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 9, 2009	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 10, 2008	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
May 13, 2006	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

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Conflicts of Interest

The information below is required to help the City Auditor identify any conflict of interest you may have.

Within 5 years of the application date, have you or your spouse:	
Been appointed to a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been elected to a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been a candidate for a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a political party?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of the campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county, or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been a registered state or local lobbyist?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Within 3 years of the application date, have you or your spouse been:	
A paid employee of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to the City of Austin or the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A controlling person of a person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to the City of Austin or the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to any member of the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A controlling person of a person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to any member of the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
In the last City Election did you or your spouse:	
Contribute or bundle one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more in aggregate to candidates for City of Austin elective office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Personal Background Information

- Ethnicity: Hispanic
- Race: Mexican American
- Gender: ☒ Male ☐ Female
- Age: (Please check your response)
☐ 18 to 24 ☐ 25 to 34 ☐ 35 to 44 ☒ 45 to 54 ☐ 55 to 64 ☐ 65+
- Education level: (Please check any that apply)
☒ High School Diploma or GED
☒ Some College (major _____)
☐ Associate's Degree (major _____)
☐ Bachelor's Degree (major _____)
☐ Post-Graduate Degree, indicate highest degree attained: (subject _____)

Qualifications

Please describe your relevant analytical skills.

See attached

Please describe your ability to be impartial.

See attached

Please describe your appreciation for the City of Austin's diverse demographics and geography.

See attached

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Please provide any other information you wish to be considered during the selection of the most qualified applicants for the Commission.

See attached

1. Please describe your relevant analytical skills.

Doing a realistic inventory of my analytical skills, I primarily focus on identifying underlying issues or problems, recognizing patterns or cause and effect relationships and strategically pinpoint a desired outcome. In my work in media, entertainment and academia, I see inevitable conflict. Fueling much of this conflict is change, and transformation must be managed best as possible. Such is the case with the process before our citizens of building the infrastructure to assure fair and representative elections for Austin.

The skill I hope to bring to the table is, chiefly, communication and the ability to build consensus. I believe communication is the basis of cooperation and collaboration in every sphere of contemporary culture. Communication can be the source of conflict or the path through a conflict leading to consensus.

As a lifelong Austinite, I've lived through decades of demographic change and witnessed ethnic minority voices (including my own) muzzled, which in turn has too often promoted passivity and acquiescence to power. The analytical skills I've drawn from in my work on behalf of our underserved communities have included: engaging both the public and the decision makers with active listening; comprehending dense and technical material; deciphering fact from opinion; and focusing on positive commonalities in order to articulate credible solutions to solve complex problems and concepts. This approach—to encourage open dialogue and handle objections while drawing constructive attention to various points of view—has helped me to manage conflict and avoid destructive outcomes.

I've coordinated hundreds of community gatherings in Austin, including intercultural debates, concerts, seminars, symposia, conferences, lectures, rallies and more, and in each of these endeavors it's been my goal to promote the concept of plurality, peaceful coexistence and social justice. I've striven to demonstrate the ability to apply logical thinking in gathering and analyzing information, putting events in a proper order, and using logic to attempt to build cultural bridges between ethnic communities. My journal, TODO Austin, my charity work and vocation are byproducts of this effort. I attempt to resolve complex, competing views on a daily basis.

As a member of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, I hope to use my capability of discovering and analyzing fresh information and my research training to make sense of statistical information and datasets, and identify the workings and requirements of the process. In short, I'd like to help create effective and efficient measures to deliver a fair and equitable outcome for the city.

2. Please describe your ability to be impartial.

In order to foster a diverse and inclusive environment in the workplace, it is my duty to set aside my personal biases, especially in matters of politics, faith and education. As a multicultural magazine publisher, a University of Texas at Austin admissions officer in the Graduate and International Admissions Center, an interfaith ambassador and human rights advocate, I am strongly committed to being unbiased and objective.

I believe I have a deep understanding of Austin's demographic characteristics of race. In fairness to the many voices I represent, I keep a neutral distance from any one perspective, counting African American, Hispanic, Anglo and Asian political reflections and cultural preferences on their face value. In the area of faith tradition, in my position as Austin's Intercultural Ambassador for Austin Area Interreligious Ministries, and through other interfaith roles, I have experienced a singular opportunity to recognize the benefits of inclusivity, the robust exchange of ideas, and cross-racial and cross-cultural understanding.

I have also had the recent honor of being recognized by the City of Austin with the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center's "Award of Excellence," and by the Institute of Interfaith Dialog with its "Community Service Award," for my ability to be impartial, create consensus among divergent groups and individuals, and lead strategic initiatives, events and campaigns to promote the concept of intercultural exchange and coexistence.

One example of my taking an impartial stand was my public response to the Proposition 3/Proposition 4 debate. Many of those behind the hybrid council system (eight geographical single member districts with two elected at-large), broadly supported by representatives of the Asian and African American communities, argued that it was a more ethnic-inclusive approach than Proposition 3. I saw their point. Before the passing of Proposition 3, I held the view that there was a possibility that future city councils could consist entirely of Anglos and Latinos. I held that sentiment based on the historical record, "gentleman's agreements" notwithstanding. Although I've heard it echoed by a few Hispanic voices that it's "our time," I find the notion that other ethnic communities will have to wait for theirs, problematic.

In the evolution of Austin we are undergoing a revolutionary period. Minorities have become the majority and now are ready to flex their political muscle. I remain steadfast in my independent stance on the subject and hope to contribute that neutral perspective to the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

3. Please describe your appreciation for the City of Austin's diverse demographics and geography.

Diversity initiatives are my vocation. I have a deep appreciation for Austin's diverse demographics and geography and believe each of us must contribute to mutually respectful community dialogue. It is why I founded and operate a free monthly print and online magazine that focuses on Austin's multicultural community, mirroring the city's demographic make-up (www.TODOAustin.com). It is why I sit on several charities' boards searching for pathways for minorities to participate in Austin's rich social life. It is why I undertake education, environmental and health care issues, and help bring the arts to underserved areas.

Growing up in Austin, I was quite conscious of the fact that to be Latino was to be obedient to the dominant authority. From grade school through civic classes at Lanier High, we were assured that minorities were fairly represented culturally, politically and every which way by our city fathers. We were reminded of the virtues of the so-called "gentleman's agreement" whereby one Latino and one African American were allowed to sit on the city council. That Austin's Latinos followed that arrangement for so long, without instituting change, says much about the city as a whole and even more about us.

As a third generation Austinite, having been raised in East and North Austin—most of my relatives, the Garcia's, Hernandez's and Castro's, resided on Holly Street—I learned to appreciate the city's sociological landscape. My father was a migrant worker as a child and a scholar as an adult, and he and my mother gave me a sense of identity so that as an ethnic minority in AISD, where I learned of racism first-hand and of the tenets of a self-segregated city, I could flourish. In response, I've contributed to several city, state, national and international efforts from the 1980s forward, helping encourage economic development and raising consumer awareness of the Austin music industry, which, of course, is tied to cultural communities. I've worked with African Americans, Latinos and Asians as an ombudsman to promote the underserved population and mediated conflicts.

At present, we are experiencing a movement — a sea change in power — as Latino Austin grows into a position of political advantage. It is a giddy time for many as progress seems possible for our communities of color. Community leaders, grassroots advocates, organizations and media are singing hymns of praise about our open, tolerant and fair community. No doubt the politically savvy have joined that chorus.

In summary, yes, I have an understanding and profound appreciation of Austin's ethnic make-up.

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DISCLAIMER

By submitting this application, I understand that I am giving the City Auditor permission to release my information to the public. In particular, I affirmatively consent to the release of the contact email address I have provided.

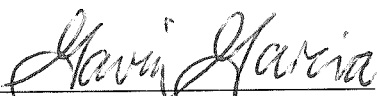
If I am appointed, my address, contact phone number and contact email address will be included on the City of Austin's website.

I understand my application is public information under the Texas Public Information Act. The information will be kept according to the City Auditor's records retention policies.

I understand that my participation on the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission is voluntary.

I understand the duties and terms of service for the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission as described above.

Under penalty of law, I swear or affirm that the preceding information in this application is in all things true and correct.



Signature of Applicant

2-11-13

Date

If submitting electronically, please type your full name in the signature box.